



By direction of the Secretary of the Army, the Valorous Unit Award is awarded to:

**3D ARMORED CAVALRY**

for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy of the United States:

During the period 25 April 2003 to 18 September 2003, the 3d Armored Cavalry displayed extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy while in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The unit performed an economy of force mission stretching across expansive terrain much larger than the Regiment is doctrinally designed to secure, encompassing an area more than 120,000 square kilometers in size and containing a population of over 1 million residents. The Regiment performed tasks ranging across the entire spectrum of combat operations in the area of the "Sunni Triangle," while maintaining the largest assigned area of responsibility and functioning as the smallest maneuver unit directly subordinate to Combined Joint Task Force-7. The unit accepted the surrender of Iraqi forces remaining in zone and then attacked former regime loyalists in what proved to be the most insurgency-plagued area of the country. The unit continued to establish order among a population whose government had collapsed and began rebuilding much of the infrastructure of the Al Anbar province. Battling summer conditions in a brutal desert environment, the unit maintained high morale, achieved highly extraordinary feats for a unit of its size, and upheld the proud legacy of traditions set by cavalry units long ago. The 3d Armored Cavalry's performance of duty reflects great credit upon the unit and the United States Army.